

**Sermon Study Guide –
Matthew 6:25-34
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Week of January 24, 2016**

Title: **“The Priority of the Kingdom”**

Sermon Idea: If I really believe that my Heavenly Father is good, then I will trust Him - and that frees me to thrive and not just survive.

Key Points:

I can trust my heavenly Father because...

1. He takes great care of even little creatures.
2. He says I am valuable and of great worth.
3. He knows and will meet all my needs.
4. He wants me to thrive in Him.

What do I want people to know? I want people to know that our Heavenly Father is good and can be trusted with our cares and concerns. I want them to realize how worry is self-reliance and it kills us. I want them to know that they can thrive in Christ through faith.

What do I want people to do? I want people to (1) entwine with God by praying about their concerns, (2) see God’s detail hand in daily provision and thank Him for it, (3) and actively seek to address heart wounds that keep me from trusting my Heavenly Father.

What need am I addressing? I am addressing the need to keep focused on the kingdom as my top priority in life.

Recommended Resources: George Eldon Ladd, *“The Gospel of the Kingdom,”* Dallas Willard, *“The Divine Conspiracy”*

Intro: What is your typical reaction to a snowstorm? Why?

Dig:

Day 1: Luke 10:41-42 is Jesus’ reply to Martha about her worrying. Are you a worry-wort? If so, why? If not, why not?

Day 2: Isaiah 40:31 promises that those who wait on God will renew their strength. How does that happen? Isn’t waiting passive?

Day 3: Philippians 4:6-7 encourages believers to pray and give thanks instead of worrying. Why is thanksgiving so helpful against worry?

Day 4: 1 Peter 5:5-7 tells us that God will give grace to the humble who cast their cares on God. What enables us to actually cast them and not hold on to them?

Day 5: Romans 8:32 declares that since God gave us His Son, we can be sure He’ll provide all we need. How does focusing on the cross help alleviate our worries and anxiety?

Apply:

- Ask God to show you what the root of your worries are. Ask Him to free you.
- Ask the Lord to give you ‘good eyes’ which see the handiwork of God in the midst of your circumstances.
- Make a commitment to spend regular time with God in quiet focus.

Pray: Heavenly Father, You are a good, good Father and I love You. Thank You for how You have taken care of me up until now. I pray that You will enable me to see Your good work in my life even in difficult circumstances. Help me seek first Your kingdom! Amen!
